



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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**FORMER SOCOM OFFICIAL SENTENCED TO MORE
THAN ONE YEAR IN FEDERAL PRISON**

Tampa, FL - U.S. District Judge James D. Whittemore today sentenced Thomas Spellissy, age 49, of Clearwater, to 15 months' imprisonment, 2 years' supervised release and a \$4,000 fine on charges of conspiracy to defraud the United States. The Judge also ordered a fine of \$125,000 for Spellissy's company, Strategic Defense International(SDI), Inc.

The defendants, Spellissy and SDI, were convicted after a jury trial in May of this year on the five counts contained in an indictment. After a post trial hearing, Judge Whittemore dismissed counts two and three, which had charged bribery, and ordered a new trial for counts four and five, which charged wire fraud. The government has filed a notice of appeal as to that ruling.

The investigation was initiated by United States Special Operations Command (SOCOM), and the case was investigated by the Department of Defense, Defense Criminal Investigative Service, Office of the Inspector General; Federal Bureau of Investigation; and United States Special Operations Command, Inspector General's Office.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill.